

## QUICK REFERENCE AID

# Hippolytus on Aristarchus' lunar distance

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### Abstract

Some details regarding Aristarchus' lunar distance, as recorded by Hippolytus of Rome, are presented.

### 1. The fragment

Bishop Hippolytus of Rome (born around AD 170, died around AD 235) ascribed to Aristarchus a specific distance of the Moon from the Earth's surface, expressed in stades. Namely,

The diameter of the Earth is 80,108 stadia, and the circumference of the Earth 250,543 stadia. Moreover, Aristarchos of Samos calculated the distance from the surface of the Earth to the Moon's circle to be 1,680,000 stadia. Apollonius calculated it to be 5,000,000 stadia. Archimedes calculated the distance from the Earth to the Moon's circle to be 5,544,130 stadia ([Hippolytus, 2016:114](#); [Suppl. Gr. 464, fol. 6r](#)).

Another transcription of this fragment is provided by Emmanuel Miller ([Hippolytus, 1851:46](#)), and another translation is offered by Francis Legge ([Hippolytus, 1921:78](#)).

### References

- Hippolytus (1851), *Origenis Philosophumena, sive Omnium Haeresium refutatio: e codice Parisino, primum edidit Emmanuel Miller*, E Typographeo Acadademico, Oxonia.
- Hippolytus (1921), *Philosophumena, or the Refutation of All Heresies, translated from the text of Cruice by Francis Legge (Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries)*, Vol. 1, Society for promoting Christian knowledge, London.
- Hippolytus (2016), *Refutation of All Heresies. Translated with an Introduction and Notes by Matthew David Litwa*, Vol. 40 of *Writings from the Greco-Roman World*, Society of Biblical Literature Press, Atlanta.